

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                      |   |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| In re application of: Shores et al.  | § | Docket No. 31849.42 / P11711.00 |
|                                      | § |                                 |
| Application No.: 10/698,177          | § | Group Art Unit: 3733            |
|                                      | § |                                 |
| Filed: October 31, 2003              | § | Examiner: Jerry L. Cumberledge  |
|                                      | § |                                 |
| For: Surgical Instrument with Angled | § | Confirmation No.: 9899          |
| Attachment                           | § |                                 |

**Mail Stop: AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**  
**MAILED NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

**I. Introductory Comments**

The present paper is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 14, 2008.

No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees, including extension of time fees are necessary, the Applicants hereby petition for the extension of time, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.